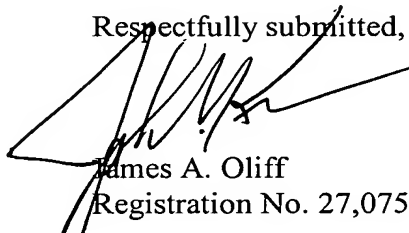


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment,  
claims 1-21 are amended. No new matter is added.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

John S. Kern  
Registration No. 42,719

JAO:JSK/kap

Attachments:

Substitute Specification  
Abstract

Date: January 30, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
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**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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